

Salt River Fire Department Operating Guidelines

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Operations

June 2000

DRAFT

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This plan establishes a procedure for response to reports of carbon monoxide incidents.

Incidents are divided into the following two categories based upon information obtained initially by Alarm.

1. CO detector in the alarm mode with victim or victims exhibiting symptoms of CO poisoning – Medical Emergency.
2. CO detector in the alarm mode with no victims exhibiting symptoms of CO poisoning - Special Duty.

It is the responsibility of the Company Officer to request additional resources as deemed necessary, based upon unit's capabilities and situation. An ALS unit may require an additional company's response with metering abilities.

Priorities

- Establish scene control.
 - Rescue and treat victims (if any) as outlined below.
 - Verify if alarm is coming from a smoke detector or a carbon monoxide detector. The cause of the alarm shall **should** be determined, i.e., true alarm, low battery indication, poor location of device, etc.
 - If it is determined that the cause for alarm is a smoke detector, it shall **should** be investigated and action taken to mitigate the situation.
 - If it is determined to be a CO detector or crews are unable to confirm from the outside, the following steps shall **should** be followed:
1. Determine if anyone is exhibiting any symptoms of possible CO poisoning. If symptoms are found, evacuate and request appropriate ALS or meter company for assistance. Begin patient treatment.
 2. Any incident involving a carbon monoxide detector with natural gas serving the property will require notification of the Utility Company through Alarm. When determined whose delivery area is involved, i.e., Southwest Gas. Alarm will dispatch the appropriate utility. Alarm will then give the fire company an ETA. We are not to cancel the gas company representatives, even though the situation may have been stabilized before their arrival. It is not necessary to fully investigate the source of the carbon monoxide with a meter on incidents where natural gas is the fuel. The gas company representative will do a complete systems check and consumption test upon their arrival. A Salt River Fire Department representative will remain on the scene until the gas company representative's arrival to ensure scene control. A patrol unit may be used for this function. This is not intended to remove the responsibility of air

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monitoring by a company with a meter if deemed necessary, such as in multi-family units where large numbers of occupants may need to be evacuated and the spread of carbon monoxide needs to be determined.

3. Any incident involving a carbon monoxide detector with other fuel sources, such as propane or a residence with a fireplace will require an investigation by Salt River Fire Department personnel.
4. Begin investigative procedures:
 - A. Zero meter in fresh air and comply with all other start-up procedures as recommended by the manufacturer of the metering equipment.
 - B. Initiate a survey of the premises to determine if there are any amounts above 5 PPM of carbon monoxide present.
 - C. All members shall **should** make complete use of SCBA in any atmosphere that is in excess of 35 PPM of CO. If company doesn't have meter abilities, any search or investigation inside shall **should** include the use of SCBA.
 - D. Keep in mind that any prior ventilation efforts and shutting-off of fuel fired appliances may cause lower readings on meters. Attempt to keep premises in same condition as when alarm went off initially to determine accurate concentrations of CO. Some situations may require shutting fuel off and ventilation, initially. The concentration of carbon monoxide and potential spread to other units in multi-family occupancies will determine when these shall **will** be accomplished.
- E. If reading of 5 PPM or less:
 1. Inform occupants that our instrument did not detect an elevated level of CO at this time.
 2. Recommend occupants check their CO detector per manufacturer recommendations.
 3. Attempt to reset detector
- F. If reading ABOVE 5 PPM:
 1. Any reading above 5 PPM shall be considered above normal reading.
 2. If not already completed, occupants shall be evacuated.
 3. If it is determined that an appliance is malfunctioning and thereby producing CO, it shall **will** be shutdown. Attempt to identify the fuel supplier, such as a propane distributor, and have Alarm advise them of the situation. They may or may not want to respond.
 4. If unable to determine the exact source, the fuel supply shall be secured. Keep in mind that a cycling appliance such as a water heater will give varying levels of carbon monoxide depending on what part of the cycle it is in.
 5. After locating CO source and securing, ventilate premises.
 6. Attempt to reset the detector.
 7. Once the premises has been reduced to 5 PPM CO or less, the premises may be occupied once again by occupants.
 8. Inform occupants of actions taken. Advise them to contact an appliance repairperson, if necessary, prior to turning fuel back on. If alarm activates again, call 9-1-1.